

Volume 1, Number 8

December 24, 1989

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| Fidonet HAM/PACKET Digest - For up to date HAM/PACKET info |
|=====
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E D I T O R I A L S

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Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all of you!

Well, it's Christmas Eve here at the KB9BVN QTH and the XYL and sprouts are getting pretty excited. I'd like to wish you all the very best of holiday wishes and extend a big thank you to those of you that have been supporting this newsletter with your contributions of articles and notes from all over the world. This is the third issue that I have compiled in the last 4 weeks, lot's of stuff to report on.

If you haven't sent your survey letter in from issue #6, please do so. Your feedback is important!

73 de Brian Murrey - Editor KB9BVN

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B U L L E T I N S

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WA7MBL PBBS to Land Line BBS interface

I am looking for beta testers for a WA7MBL ---> LLBBS interface. I sent out a general bulletin asking if there was an interface available for the WA7MBL PBBS to a land line BBS. I received several replies asking that if I find one, would I please pass it along. I found none so I have written a first cut at one and am looking for a few SYSOPS to beta test the program before releasing it for general use.

This version is the WA7MBL ---> LLBBS interface. The LLBBS ---> WA7MBL side is yet to be completed. It seemed like a good idea to make sure that the first part is solid before putting out the other half. Besides I have some questions on implementation that might work well under RBBS-PC, but may prove difficult for other LLBBS SYSOPs and consulting with beta testers would be of great help. These questions revolve around how traffic is entered and controlled so that it is legally entered into the ham radio world.

The interface takes the MAILFILE.BTR and the \*.MAI files and creates FIDO standard \*.MSG message files that can be handled by RBBSMAIL, CONFMAIL, etc in a FIDO type network. Why did I choose FIDO, especially when my LLBBS is distinctly not a FIDO BBS, but RBBS-PC? The answer is that it was easier and there are many FIDO interfaces available for the standard LLBBS packages. By using the FIDO standard as an intermediary, I hope that the program will find wider use than if I had written it to link the WA7MBL files to only RBBS-PC.

Those who wish to assist are asked to let me know something about their setup and experience in operating a BBS. Below are ways that I can be contacted. You can call my LLBBS and look at the W3INK conference if you want to see how it works.

Stan Staten, W3INK  
12012 Cheyenne Rd  
Gaithersburg, MD 20878  
Voice phone 301-977-7987

3 WINKs RBBS 301-670-9621/590-9629. FIDO 1:109/418 W3INK-1 PBBS on 145.05 MHz 146.64 Repeater in Wash, DC area

73 and Thanks  
Stan

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QST DE W1AW

Propagation Forecast Bulletin 50 ARLP050

From ARRL Headquarters

Newington CT December 18, 1989

To all Radio Amateurs

Though December began with the solar flux at 235, the trend has been mostly downward since. There was a drop to 183 by 10 December, it's first day under 200 since 30 October. The slide downward continued to 167, the lowest flux level since September. The trend has been upward since 14 December, but the flux had reached only 181 by bulletin time.

There has been slightly more visible activity on the sun in recent days, but nothing spectacular. The flux rise on Sunday was seven points, with more likely this week. On the dark side of the picture, the Sunday solar flux reading, 181, is 54 points below the corresponding day in the previous solar rotation.

At this time of year the beacons now in operation on 28 and 50 MHz are very helpful. If you hear 10 meter skip at distances of around 1000 miles or less, the chances are good that the short skip is by way of the E region of the ionosphere. If the signals are strong and fairly steady, it is likely that 50 MHz may be open also, probably at slightly greater distances, but in about the same direction. The number of 50 MHz beacons is increasing. Most are on CW, below 50.1 MHz.

Another aid in working 50 MHz DX is frequent monitoring of 28.885 MHz, where bits of hot information about 50 MHz activity are exchanged. For this week, the likelihood of 50 MHz openings should improve if the solar flux continues to rise, as now seems likely.

American sunspot numbers for December 7 through 13 were between 89 and 186 with a mean of 128.0.

Copied from W1AW by Tad, KT7H @ N7HFZ.

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| Relayed from packet radio via |  
| N8EMR's Ham BBS, 614-457-4227 (1200/2400/19.2 telebit,8N1) |

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DX BULLETIN 51 ARLD051  
FROM ARRL HEADQUARTERS NEWINGTON CT  
DECEMBER 22, 1989

TO ALL RADIO AMATEURS

THANKS TO BOB, WB2CJL, AND THE WESTERN NEW YORK DX ASSOCIATION  
FOR THE FOLLOWING DX INFORMATION.

DXCC NEWS. THE ARRL AWARDS COMMITTEE HAS ACCEPTED THE  
RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE DXAC TO ADD CONWAY, 3D2, AND BANABA, T33,  
TO THE DXCC COUNTRIES LIST. QSLs MAY BE SUBMITTED FOR CONWAY  
AND BANABA CREDITS ON OR AFTER MARCH 1, 1990. CARDS SUBMITTED  
BEFORE THAT DATE WILL BE RETURNED WITH NO ACTION. SEE FEBRUARY  
QST FOR FURTHER DETAILS.

LAOS. XW8DX AND XW8CW CONTINUE TO BE ACTIVE. THIS OPERATION  
WILL QRT DECEMBER 27. XW8KPL IS STILL ACTIVE, MOSTLY ON LIST  
TYPE OPERATIONS. A JAPANESE OPERATION HEADED BY JA1UT IS  
SCHEDULED BETWEEN DECEMBER 27 AND 29.

SPRATLY. THE HA OPERATORS OF XW FAME HAVE SCRUBBED THEIR PLANS  
TO ACTIVATE SPRATLY.

BOUVET. THE LA GROUP IS WELL ON THEIR WAY. PLANS ARE TO BE QRV

STARTING DECEMBER 26 AS 3Y5X FOR APPROXIMATELY 23 DAYS. MALDIVE ISLANDS. F6EEM AND F6FYP WILL BE ACTIVE JANUARY 11 TO 17. PLANS CALL FOR 80 THROUGH 10 METER CW AND SSB. QSL VIA THE FRENCH DX FOUNDATION.

BURKINA FASO. LLOYD AND IRIS COLVIN CONTINUE AS XT2KG WITH PLANS TO BE ACTIVE NEXT FROM BAHRAIN, A9. AT THIS TIME IT IS UNKNOWN WHETHER A9 REGULATIONS WILL ALLOW IRIS, A YL, TO OPERATE FROM BAHRAIN. THEIR NEXT STOP WILL BE ALGERIA.

SAINT VINCENT. VE3CPU WILL BE ACTIVE FOR A MONTH BEGINNING DECEMBER 30. HE WILL BE ON 160 THROUGH 6 METERS WITH AN EMPHASIS ON CW. QSL TO HIS HOME CALL.

OGASAWARA. JA3EMU WILL SIGN /JD1 FROM DECEMBER 31 THROUGH JANUARY 8. ACTIVITY WILL BE ON CW, SSB AND RTTY ON 160 THROUGH 10 METERS, WITH WARC BANDS AS A BONUS.

GLORIOSO. FR5AI/G IS NOW QRT. HE WAS NOT AS ACTIVE AS MOST DXERS WOULD HAVE LIKED. THE NEXT OPERATION WILL BE FR5AI/J IN MAY AND FR45I/E IN OCTOBER.

WILLIS ISLAND. VK9TR IS ACTIVE IN A LIST OPERATION ON 14226 KHZ FRIDAYS AROUND 1100Z. TREVOR SHOULD BE ACTIVE FOR THE NEXT YEAR

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OR SO. QSL VIA VK5FG, THE CALLSIGN OF HIS LATE FATHER, SO DO NOT BE ALARMED TO SEE IT LISTED AS A SILENT KEY.

BRUNEI. V85DA, OPERATED BY VK1DA, WILL BE ACTIVE FOR ABOUT ANOTHER YEAR. HE LIKES 14027 OR 7002 KHZ AROUND 2200Z AND ALSO OPERATES SIX METERS BEAMING TOWARDS WESTERN NORTH AMERICA.

ZIMBABWE. WATCH FOR ANOTHER OPERATION BY DF3EC SIGNING /Z2. PLANS ARE FOR CW ONLY AROUND THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY. QSL HIS HOME CALL. AR

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A R T I C L E S

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How Hams got Their Name

Taken from Sequim's Jimmy Come Lately GAZETTE, April 26, 1989

"Have you ever wondered why radio amateurs are called HAMS? Well it goes like this: In 1908 the first amateur radio station at Harvard University was operated by Albert S. Hyman, Bob Almy and Poogie Murray. At first they called their station, HYMAN-ALMY-MURRAY. Tapping out such a long call sign in code soon became tiresome and called for a revision. They changed the name to HY-AL-MU, using the first two letters of each of their names.

"Early in 1909 some confusion resulted between amateur radio station HYALMU and a Mexican ship named HYALMU. They then decided to use only the first letters and the station finally became HAM. In the pioneer days of unregulated radio, amateur radio operators picked their own frequency and call letters. Then, as now, some amateurs had better signals than commercial stations. The resulting interference came to the attention of congressional committees in Washington and Congress spent much time on proposed legislation to limit amateur radio activity.

"In 1911, Albert Hyman chose the controversial wireless regulation bill as the topic for his thesis at Harvard. His instructor insisted that a copy be sent to Senator David I. Walsh, a member of one of the committees hearing the bill. The senator was so impressed by the thesis that he asked Hyman to appear before the committee. Albert Hyman took the stand and described how the little station was built and almost cried when he told the crowded room that if the bill went through, they would have to close down the station because they could not afford the license fees and all the other requirements which the bill imposed on amateur stations.

"Congressional debate began on the wireless regulation bill and little station HAM became the symbol of all the little amateur radio stations in the country crying to be saved from the menace and greed of the big commercial stations who did not want them around. The bill finally got to the floor of congress and every speaker talked about poor little station HAM.

"That is how it all started. You will find the whole story in the Congressional Record. Nationwide publicity associated station HAM with amateur radio operators. From that day to this, and to the end of time, an amateur radio operator is a HAM."

This is just one of many stories about the origination of the term HAM. Is this one more authentic than the others? Who

knows!

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Origin of the Term "Ham" by Lee Wilcoxon

"In railroad telegraphy and press work, as well as Western Union, the old original Morse code was used. It is much faster than the International, or Continental code. It served the purpose admirably when used on land wires where a receiving operator could break in easily if something was not clear. It was not suitable for wireless, although during the first few years of wireless it was used over the air.

"When a new telegrapher started to work on a railroad, their sending habits were often considered to be 'ragged'. Old timers scorned a newcomer who failed to clean up his sending act in a hurry. One of the most scathing epithets an old timer could use when referring to a new telegrapher was to ask, 'What are you sending with? A ham? Try using your fist for a while.' As time passed, it became the custom among railroad telegraphers to refer to a newcomer as a 'ham operator.' The connotations of this label had a strong influence on young telegraphers persuading them to shape up or ship out.

"After the sinking of the Titanic, and the widely publicized manner in which its ship wireless operator called for help over its new fangled wireless equipment, many old time railroad operators became interested in this mode. Virtually none of the operators knew anything about wireless, or how the messages were propagated, however, a number of publications came out with instructions how to build simple transmitters and receivers.

"Many others, outside the railroading fraternity were also intrigued by the mysteries of wireless. Most of them were more

interested in the theory and physics involved than in any perfection in their ability to handle code. Moreover, many of them preferred to use the Continental code rather than the old Morse code. To them, a code that had a distinctly different character for every letter and numeral was preferable to one, like the Morse, that had spaces mixed up in the characters.

"The old time railroad telegraphers who listened to the ragged sending of the outside experimenters began applying their derogatory appellation of "Ham" to the outsiders. As more and more outsiders joined the wireless fraternity and the telegraph operators became fewer and fewer, it became the custom to refer to any amateur wireless operator as a 'Ham' -- taking the sting out of what had been an insult in the past."

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European Amateur News from EI4GV/KC1QF

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EUROPEAN COMMISSION STARTS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

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Brussels, Belgium, 1989 Dec 1 -- The European Commission, the body which regulates trade in the twelve member countries of the European Community (Ireland, Greece, Belgium, The Netherlands, France, Germany, Luxemburg, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Denmark and the United Kingdom), now has its own amateur radio club.

Started with equipment lent by Kenwood which consists of a TS940S, TS440S, TS140S, TL922 and a 2m transceiver working a vertical Butternut five band beam, the club is active in the HF bands.

OR5EEC, the club's call sign was issued by the Belgian PTT authorities and it is one of two special call-signs issued in Belgium, the other being OROTT, which is the Belgian PTT's

amateur club station.

OR5EEC has been started by Peter Vekinis, EI4GV/KC1QF, Mike Newman, G7FIX and Ed Grazziozi, ON5GA in the beginning of 1989. Currently it has about 20 members all working in European Institutions.

Visiting hams are invited to use the station. When in Brussels, call 235-1111 and ask for Mike Newman, the club's secretary or Marc Seller, the club's president. Dont forget a copy of your license. A visiting ham may operate within the restrictions of his or her license.

Since the European Commission is not recognized as a separate country as such, the Belgian government had to supply a special call-sign to this station. Thus, even though this club belongs to the European Commission, its call-sign reflects adoption of Belgian regulations.

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GREEK HAM CLUBS PERMIT NON-AMATEURS PARTICIPATE IN SPORT

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Athens, Greece, 1989 Dec 3 -- Greek amateur radio clubs now allow non-hams participate in amateur radio.

Vasilis, SV5TS from Rhodes told HAM/PACKET Digest "we now allow any person participate in amateur radio as long as there is a licensed amateur standing by the station. This now permits people who are not amateurs enjoy the sport and ensures they may also become radio amateurs in the future."

The Greek regulation is in response to the need of increasing the number of hams in Greece, which last year stood at less than

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2000. A relatively low percentage considering the fact that the population of Greece stands at around 10 million.

The regulation does not permit third party per se in Greece. However it allows individuals to communicate with other stations around the world without being radio hams.

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NOVICE TRAINING PROGRAM STARTED BY KC1QF IN BRUSSELS

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Brussels, Belgium, 1989 Dec 5 -- People who would like to become radio amateurs can now do the examinations outside the United States.

Peter, EI4GV/KC1QF, has instituted a novice training and examination program which will teach various people ham radio operating techniques and theory. The course, which is based on the ARRL publications "Tune into the World" and Gordon West's "21 day novice" will be completed over the next three months.

Many individuals at NATO, Shape and locals have expressed interest in becoming radio amateurs. After negotiating with the Belgian Government, it has been agreed to accept Novice class licensees and supply them with reciprocal callsigns under the local "Beginner" ham radio section. All novices will be issued call signs starting with ON9Axx where xx are two letters of the callers choice. Netherlands residents may also ask the Ministry of Communications there to see whether this reciprocal plan will apply to them.

According to FCC rules, anyone who has a US address can apply for a FCC amateur radio license.

The Novice tests will be conducted by Peter, KC1QF and Don, , sometimes in the spring of 1990.

If you desire additional information, write to Peter Vekinis, EI4GV/KC1QF, 19 rue Le Titien, 1040 Brussels, Belgium.

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FCC PROVIDES INFORMATION CONCERNING RECIPROCAL LICENSES

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According to the FCC, a person applying for a reciprocal license needs to have a license from the same country as his nationality.

Peter, KC1QF, wrote to the FCC asking them to change this law and see whether they could change this to allow many Europeans who have taken up residence elsewhere apply for a reciprocal radio license.

Today, due to the European Commission efforts to harmonize the European Community and within view of 1992, Europe without

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frontiers, it seems natural for people to move from country to country setting up residence.

Similar to the way a New Yorker may go to California, a Greek citizen may go and leave in The Netherlands. If that person however had to get an amateur radio license from the Netherlands, he would not be able to get a reciprocal US license. He would firstly need to get a Greek amateur radio license and with that he would be able to get an FCC reciprocal license.

The FCC said that the only way this can be done would be to change its statutes, a date for such change not been set yet.

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Good Hams live! Dave NF2G

I wanted to take this opportunity to relate a very positive ham radio experience that I just had. In spite of the boobs that exist in the ham radio hobby, there is still a lot of good that can be done by hams.

During my trip to Toronto this weekend for my honeymoon, I contacted Les, VE3LWH on his repeater on 444.725 in the St Catharines, Ontario area. We were on the QEW in a blinding snowstorm. Les "rode along" with us for some distance and expressed some concern for our safety on the road. We (BTW, this "we" does refer to 2 people) lost contact with the repeater just outside of Grimsby but we could still hear Les and other hams discussing our trip and wondering if we would arrive safely in Toronto.

Along our return route, the weather was much better and the roads dry. I made a call to Les on one of his other repeaters (he has 3 and can link them together for very wide coverage) on 147.240. I let him know that we were OK and were heading home. He invited us to visit his place for coffee and provided directions in and out of his neighborhood.

Les is a fine example of amateur hospitality and concern for the wellbeing of his fellow ham. I wish to publicly thank him (and Dan, VE3AA\_ - sorry the call escapes me) for his assistance and hospitality. Les will not see this message because he does not operate a computer or modem. If any ham on the Niagara Peninsula sees this and knows Les, you are more than welcome to let him know how much Dee and I think of him.

73 de Dave, NF2G

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Hierarchical addresses, how to use. W3IWI

More and more of the BBSs are now supporting "H" Hierarchical addresses of the form K9DOG @ W3IWI.MD.USA -- you can tell which BBSs accept such addresses when you connect by looking at the SID = System ID. This is the field like [MBL-5.13-H\$] or RLI-11.6-CH\$] where the H indicates that the BBS accepts the expanded addresses.

Now for some "rules":

- (1) In the portion to the right of the "@" you still must supply a valid BBS call if you use "H" addressing. You do not use "H" addressing for NTS msgs (i.e. ST 94321 @ NTSCA ) or for bulletins (i.e. SB ALL @ MDCBBS \$). You don't have to use the "H" addressing for well-known BBSs (i.e. mail sent like SP W0RRY @ K0JJV) still works just fine.
- (2) The fields to the right of the @ which are separated by periods are intended to be real, physical LOCATIONS. The convention that is being followed is to use the two-letter state/province postal abbreviation.

Examples in the USA & Canada include:

Maryland MD Quebec PQ Michigan MI Washington (state) WA Wash.DC  
DC and similar definitions in foreign countries: the Milano  
district of Italy MI the state of Western Australia WA

(3) This is followed by a three letter country abbreviation  
following ISO standards -- these are the same as the letter  
codes you saw during the Olympics. Examples are:

Argentina ARG  
Australia AUS  
Austria AUT  
Brazil BRA  
Canada CAN  
Chile CHL  
West Germany DEU  
Greece GRC  
Indonesia IDN  
Israel ISR  
Italy ITA  
Japan JPN  
South Africa ZAF  
Spain ESP  
Sweden SWE  
Switzerland CHE  
England GBR  
United States USA  
USSR SUN

(4) To this may be added an optional continent code like  
EU=Europe, NA=North America, AS=Asia, AU=Australia.

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(5) Addresses are assembled from left to right, smallest area to  
largest. Thus my full address would be W3IWI@W3IWI.MD.USA.NA  
but for forwarding within this continent, W3IWI@W3IWI.MD or  
W3IWI.MD.USA would be adequate. From the examples given above,  
you must be careful for mail leaving the country since .MI could  
be either Michigan or Milano. Thus I would need to address a  
message to my friend Luca in Milano like IW2ECL@I2KBD.MI.ITA or  
IW2ECL@I2KBD.MI.ITA.EU to avoid the message going to Michigan.

(6) In some cases you will see an attempt to facilitate local distribution with an address like W6XYZ@N6VV.#NOCAL.CA.USA where the #NOCAL may mean something in California but is just passed thru by BBSs forwarding the mail out west. Such supplementary addresses are ALWAYS preceded by a #. Don't try to be creative inventing new ones. A bad example is one user who invented the return address xxxxx@N4QQ.MDCBBS.MD.USA.Z:21211 -- both the MDCBBS and Z:21211 fields are bogus.

(7) Don't use these addresses to try to force routing. A recent message sent to Washington state with the address xxxxx@WS7M.W3IWI played ping-pong for three days between the W3IWI and WB7DCH HF mail gateways.

(8) The extended "H" address applies to the BBS -- not to the individual user. Thus if K9DOG uses W3IWI, then his address is K9DOG@W3IWI.MD.USA, not K9DOG.MD.USA . The address for a Virginia user of WA3ZNW is N4PQR@WA3ZNW.MD.USA and not N4PQR@WA3ZNW.VA.USA since ZNW is located in MD.

(9) Remember that you need to supply a correct ADDRESS for mail. You should not worry about the route the mail takes. Don't try to force your mail to follow a particular path.

(10) It is your responsibility to supply a good, clean, correct address and the packet network will do its best to move the mail to its destination. Be careful about typographical errors. Here are some examples of what has happened: N0AN is not the same as NOAN (with the letter o). W1XYZ is not WIXYZ (with the letter i) nor is it WlXYZ (with a lower case L).

Hope these hints help -- 73 & Seasons Greetings de Tom, W3IWI

GATEWAY: The ARRL Packet-Radio Newsletter - Vol 6 - No.7

December 15, 1989 - Part 1 of 4

Published by the American Radio Relay League

225 Main Street, Newington, CT 06111

Stan Horzepa, WA1LOU, Editor

#### TAPR packetRADIO STATUS

The beta test version of the TAPR packetRADIO, that was to be unveiled at the ARRL Computer Networking Conference, didn't happen because it wasn't ready. TAPR could have thrown it together and taken folks money, however, it was felt that the amateur community deserved better. Packeteers have put their trust in TAPR many times and TAPR felt the only responsible thing to do was to take a little more time and do it right. This was a tough decision, but TAPR believed it was the correct thing to do. In the next 60 days, the circuit boards are going to be revised and some tweaks will be made to the design. Hopefully, the end result will be something we can all be proud of.

Offers of help have not gone unnoticed. Andy Freeborn, N0CCZ, has a map of the US on his wall and on it are all of the call signs of people who want to participate in the beta test. A dBase listing has been compiled as well. When looking at the map, data base, and the forms prospective testers have filled out, two things become clear.

1. There are a lot of talented people who want to help.
2. Not everyone will get a radio.

Since TAPR plans to produce only 100 radios for testing, over half of the requests will have to be turned down. Beta testing should not be thought of as a way to be "first on the block" with the latest gear. Rather, it is a serious part of the final review process before turning the design over to the amateur community.

The delays are frustrating, but, according to TAPR, being honest and up front with the folks that have volunteered to be test sites has been the preferred way to go.

by Pete Eaton, WB9FLW from Packet Status Register

BB VERSION 2.8 AVAILABLE

Version 2.8 of the AA4RE BB PBBS program is now available. The primary advantage of BB over other systems is its ability to handle multiple connects per port. The program uses its own multitasker; no DesqView, DoubleDos, etc is required. On the down side, BB has been optimized for speed, but requires at least 512 kbyte (and usually 640 kbyte) of RAM to be used productively.

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The following features have been added to the software:

- o New port type: G8BPQ\_NODE (use version 3.51 or higher of the G8BPQ program)
- o Ability to execute a DOS program from WAKEUP or keyboard
- o New search arguments for the K, R and EXPORT commands, which are similar to the L command
- o R option LATER and REJECT support
- o Support for multiple PBBS with same call sign
- o White Pages support (EW command)
- o GN command to change file names while running
- o NO\_BUSY\_FWD in PARMs.BB to prevent a forward cycle if the port is busy (intended for single connection HF operation)
- o \$7, \$8, \$9 to MESSAGEs (each sounds a different tone; intended primarily for blind SYSOPs)

For more info contact:

Frank McPherson, KB7TV  
4102 E Lavender Ln  
Phoenix, AZ 85044

N7IJI in Charlotte, North Carolina, is also distributing the software. Contact him via N7IJI @ N7IJI.NC.USA.NA for information on how to obtain a copy. The software can also be obtained by downloading it from the WA6RDH telephone BBS at 916-678-1535. Those with FTP Internet service or BITNET should send a note to AA4RE @ AA4RE.#NOCAL.CA.USA.NA with your TCP/IP address or BITNET address for delivery over those networks. The software should also be available from TAPR (PO Box 12925, Tucson, AZ 85732).

In addition, the following programs are available:

- o BB28DOC: N4CHV's DOC file for BB
- o BBUTL12: KL7GNG's BB utility package, which includes Log File Analyzer
- o QBBS: KL7GNG's information on N4HY's satellite tracker server

Please correspond directly with the software authors if you have questions, comments, or problems with these files. In addition, N2MH's header parser has been tested and is recommended (it updates your HLOOKUP.BB file based on incoming messages). Contact N2MH directly (via N2MH @ N2MH.NY.USA.NA) for version 68.

from Roy Engehausen, AA4RE

#### CONNECTICUT HIGH-SPEED PACKET-RADIO BACKBONE ON LINE

As amateurs, we have thought of the concept of 9600-baud packet radio for some time. In Connecticut, these thoughts have finally become reality with 9600-baud packet radio links now in

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operation. The concept was proposed to us by Mark Herson, N2MH, the EastNet Network Manager. His scheme for a multi-tier network offered relief to the crowded 220-MHz backbone frequencies of the Tri-State area (Connecticut, New Jersey and New York). The Connecticut network was formed using the basic concept of all users access via 2-meter user nodes. The multiport systems would form three regional networks with the N1DCS site serving as Region 1, the Insurance City Repeater Club site, WA1UQC, as Region 2, and the W1HAD site as Region 3. The N1DCS system is a four-port system, while the WA1UQC and W1HAD systems are three- port systems. The three systems form a dedicated UHF backbone operating at 9600 bauds. The fourth port at N1DCS ties into the New York network, EBN. (By the time of this publication, the EBN network may have their own 9600-baud system tied in as well.) WA1UQC extends into the New England network, NEDA. This provides a four-level system with no hidden transmitters on either the 220-MHz regional network frequencies or the UHF 9600-baud high- speed backbone.

The equipment used on the 9600-baud paths are 30-watt Maxon 70-cm commercial grade 2-way radios with MFJ and PacComm TNCs equipped with PacComm 9600-baud modems. TXD is set at 20, although bench tests show the ability to run TXD as low as 5 or

10. This will be fine-tuned in time. The port diode matrixes are running at 19.2 kbaud at all key sites. This has drastically increased through-put into and out of the state. Users can now access PBBSs that they could never access before and PBBS forwarding is much quicker. In addition, user channel congestion due to PBBS forwarding has dramatically decreased.

from Caesar Rodina, N1DCS, CT Section Manager

#### TAPR ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING SCHEDULED

As has been the case since the formation of the organization, the 1990 TAPR Annual Membership Meeting will again be held in Tucson, Arizona, February 24-25 at the same location as last year, ie, The Inn At The Airport, 7060 South Tucson Boulevard, which is a short distance from the airport terminal.

The Inn At The Airport again offers special rates of \$49 for either one or two persons in a room. Breakfast is included in the rate and there is a late afternoon cocktail hour free to those staying at the Inn. Reservations may be made by calling 1- 800-772-3847 (in Arizona, call 602-746-0271). On Friday night, there will be the customary social session with lots of getting (re)acquainted; pizzas as usual. Following the pizza session, the would-be Indy 500 contestants will burn rubber at the Malibu Grand Prix. Since last year's western-style meal in a dining room adjacent to the conference room was so popular, it will be scheduled again this year. Expect to see many of the manufacturers of packet-radio equipment present with displays and demonstrations. Some have already contacted TAPR for arrangements. All of the new TAPR kits will be shown and discussed. Those wishing to be on the speaking agenda should

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advise the TAPR office as soon as possible. The Sunday session should be concluded near or shortly after noon for those planning afternoon departures.

from Packet Status Register

#### NEW ARRL PACKET-RADIO BOOK DUE SOON

The Second Edition of the ARRL's popular packet-radio book, Your Gateway to Packet Radio, will be on sale real soon now. The second edition picks up where the first edition left off, adding

coverage of all the packet-radio developments that have occurred since the first edition of the book was published two years ago.

New features include extensive coverage of the various networking schemes (NET/ROM, KA-Node, ROSE, TCP/IP, TexNet, etc), the new packet-radio satellites, and an "Applications" chapter. Another new feature is a detailed TNC features comparison chart. The extensive glossary of terms and source listing that appeared in the first edition have been expanded even further in the new edition.

Your Gateway to Packet Radio was written by your Gateway editor, Stan Horzepa, WA1LOU. It will be available soon from your local ham radio emporium or directly from ARRL headquarters.

#### HOW NOT TO USE A WHITE PAGES SERVER

The story "How To Use A White Pages Server" that appeared in the November 17 issue of Gateway may have misled some of our readers. A "cache server" is intended for use on a local basis only, that is, information requests sent to a cache server should only be generated from users within the area served by that cache server, not from the packet-radio population in general. Information requests that can not be handled by a local cache server should be addressed to the White Pages global server, which is PBBS W9ZRX (W9ZRX.IN.USA.NA).

#### IP ADDRESS COORDINATOR LIST

Here's the list of regional IP address coordinators as of November 29, courtesy of Brian Kantor, WB6CYT, the global AMPRNET address coordinator. (An IP address is required in order to use the KA9Q Internet Protocol Package for amateur packet-radio TCP/IP operation. Contact your region's coordinator for an address assignment.)

LOCATION	IP ADDRESS	IP ADDRESS COORDINATOR
US Coordinators		
AK	44.022	KL7JL
AL	44.100	K4FUM
AR	44.110	WD5B
AZ	44.124	WB7TPY
CA: L.A./San Fernando Valley	44.016	WB5EKU

CA: Orange County	44.010	KA6CCF
CA: Sacramento	44.002	K6RTV
CA: San Bernardino	44.018	WC6T
CA: San Diego	44.008	WB6CYT
CA: Santa Barbara/Ventura	44.006	WB5EKU
CA: San Francisco/Silicon Valley	44.004	N60YU
CO: Colorado Springs	44.032	N3EUA
CO: northeast	44.020	AI0C
CO: western	44.084	K9MWM
CT	44.088	KE3Z
DC	44.096	WB6RQN
FL	44.098	Garry Paxinos
GA	44.036	KD4NC
HI: and Pacific islands	44.014	KJ9U
IA	44.050	KC00X
IL: northern	44.072	WD9DBJ
IN	44.048	KA9FJS
KY	44.106	WB9TPG
LA: southwestern	44.108	N5KNX
MA: Boston	44.056	AE1C
MA: western	44.044	W3VH
MD	44.060	WB3FFV
ME	44.118	WA2YVL
MI: lower peninsula	44.102	KV8G
MI: upper peninsula	44.092	W9NK
MN	44.094	W9NK
MO	44.046	WB0ROT
MS	44.042	WA4DDE
MT	44.082	N7GXP
NC	44.074	KA40JN
NH	44.052	K8LT
NJ: northern	44.064	KA9Q
NJ: southern	44.065	KA2BQE
NM	44.030	WS5N
NY: Long Island	44.068	W2JUP
OH	44.070	N8EMR
OK	44.078	K5JB
OR	44.026	WA7TAS
OR: Portland	44.116	WA7NJK
PA: eastern	44.080	WA3WBU
PA: Pittsburgh	44.112	N3CVL
RI	44.104	W1CG
SC	44.038	N4QXV
TN	44.034	WD4NMQ
TX: central	44.076	WB5BBW
TX: Dallas	44.028	KD5QN
TX: western	44.077	KA5EJX

UT	44.040	WA7MBL
VA: not DC	44.062	WA4ONG
VT	44.054	N1CQE
WA: eastern	44.012	KA7AXD
WA: western (Puget Sound)	44.024	N1DMM
WI	44.092	W9NK
WV	44.058	KB8A0B

International Subnet Coordinators

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Argentina	44.153	LU7ABF
Australia	44.136	VK2ZXQ
Austria	44.143	OE1YSS
Belgium	44.144	ON7LE
Canada	44.135	VE3GYQ
Chile	44.157	Flavio Llanos
Denmark	44.145	OZ1EUI
Ecuador	44.148	HC5K
Finland	44.139	OH2BJU
France	44.151	FC1BQ
Germany	44.130	DL4TA
Greece	44.154	SV1IW
Hong Kong	44.149	VS6EL
Hungary	44.156	HA5DI
Indonesia	44.132	YB1BG
Ireland	44.155	EI9GL
Israel	44.138	4X60J
Italy	44.134	I2KFX
Japan	44.129	JG1SLY/JH3XCU
Netherlands	44.137	PA0GRI
New Zealand	44.147	
Norway	44.141	LA4JL
Philippines	44.146	DU1UJ
Spain	44.133	none
Sweden	44.140	SM0RGV
Switzerland	44.142	HB9SFD
United Kingdom	44.131	G3MRX/G6KVK
Venezuela	44.152	OA4KO/YV5
Yugoslavia	44.150	YU3FK
Outer Space-AMSAT	44.193	W3IWI
Testing	44.128	none

(44.128 is reserved for testing. Do not use this address for operational networks. You may safely assume that any packets with 44.128 addresses are bogus unless they are being used for

some sort of testing.) from Phil Karn, KA9Q

#### GATEWAY CHRISTMAS BREAK

It's that time of year again when your editor takes an extra week to get out the next issue of Gateway. Why? So, he can do his Christmas shopping? So, he can finish addressing his Christmas cards? So, he can deck the halls with boughs of holly? Besides those reasons, in order to insure that Gateway is published only 25-times-per-year, there must be a three-week lag between issues twice each year (instead of the normal two-week lag). Therefore, the next issue of the newsletter (Volume 6, Number 8) will be dated next year, specifically, January 5, 1990. Until then...

Happy Holidays from the WA1LOU family!  
Laurie the XYL, Hayley the Harmonic, & Stan the Old Man.

#### GATEWAY CONTRIBUTIONS

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Submissions for publication in Gateway are welcome. You may submit material via the US mail to:

Gateway  
Stan Horzepa, WA1LOU  
75 Kreger Drive  
Wolcott, CT 06716-2702

or electronically, via CompuServe to user ID 70645,247 or via Internet to 70645.247@compuserve.com. Via telephone, your editor can be reached on evenings and weekends at 203-879-1348 and he can switch a modem on line to receive text at 300, 1200 or 2400 bit/s. (Personal messages may be sent to your Gateway editor via packet radio to WA1LOU @ N1DCS or IP address 44.88.0.14.)

The deadline for each issue of Gateway is the Saturday preceding the issue date (which is typically a Friday).

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